

Kidlington Parish Council

Chair's report

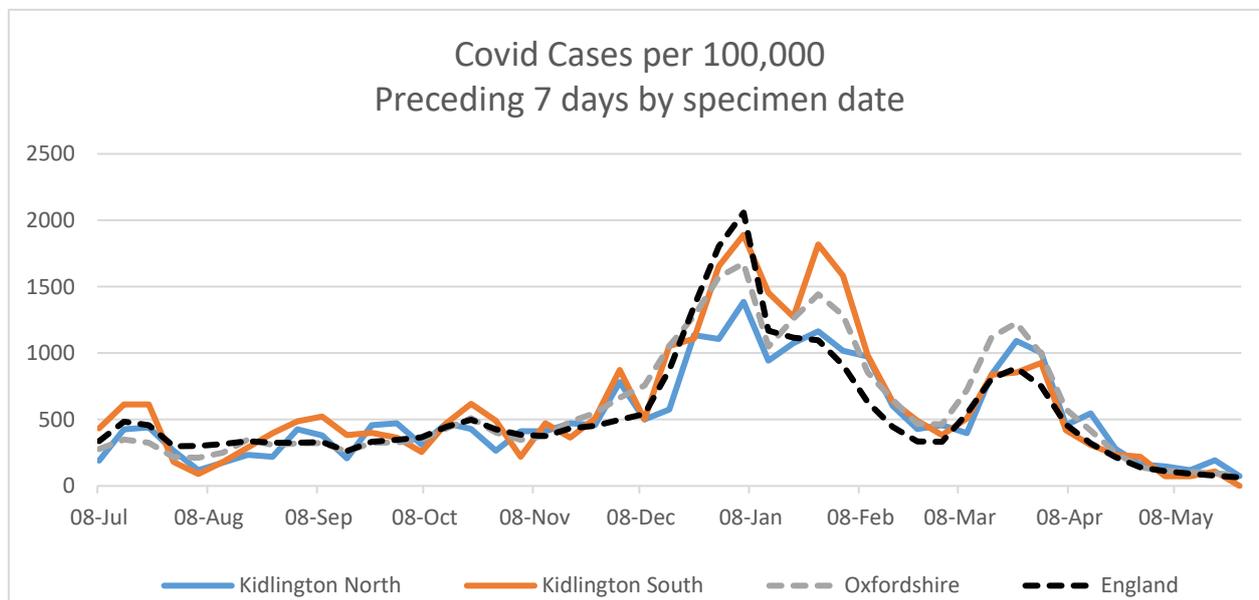
May 2022

During the last year I have been registering, gloomily and a little obsessively, the incidence of recorded Covid cases in Kidlington North and South. These are the two Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) into which the village is divided for purposes of statistical geography. The dividing line is very roughly Yarnton Road and Evans Lane, but North does not include the area around the top half of Lyne Road, and South includes Gosford though not Water Eaton.

The figures I have been registering, from the beginning of July last year, are on the government websites at

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases> and
<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map/cases>.

The set I selected is the rolling count of cases by specimen date over the preceding week. These are expressed for purposes of comparison as proportions of 100,000, though in the case of the Kidlington MSOAs the actual populations are around six thousand. The results up to the end of May this year are shown on the graph, where I have also mapped the Kidlington figures against those for Oxfordshire and England as a whole. I assume the figures are reliable, though I do wonder how much they are now that testing is so greatly reduced. With this caveat, the graph shows some interesting results.



First, the figures for Kidlington North and South broadly track each other, and also track those for Oxfordshire and England, though since the Kidlington populations are smaller their numbers inevitably go up and down more. All four lines have much the same peaks and troughs, particularly the peaks at the beginning and end of January and the end of March this year. In this respect, then, the Covid situation in Kidlington, has mirrored that in the nation.

Second, the number of cases in Kidlington South has mostly been higher than in Kidlington North. Taking the whole period covered by the graph, the average incidence per 100,000 is 525.40 for North, 608.61 for South. The averages for Oxfordshire and England are respectively 587.25 and 541.70. So Kidlington North has had a lower incidence than Oxfordshire and England as a whole, and South a higher one.

I have taken a random dip into some other statistics to see what explanations there might be for this discrepancy. Vaccination uptake (as given in the same web pages cited above) is slightly but not much lower in South, with the gap increasing from first to second dose and from second dose to third. Both North and South have a higher uptake than Oxfordshire as a whole, though not always higher than England as a whole.

	North	South	Oxon	England
1st dose	86.2%	86.0%	82.9%	93.0%
2nd dose	83.7%	82.8%	79.3%	86.9%
3rd dose	72.1%	68.5%	65.8%	68.4%

Other health data indices seem pretty much the same for North and South, and for the most part either better than or not significantly different from the England average: see

https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/system/files/documents/Kidlington_JSNA_profile_Jul21.pdf

But Kidlington South is somewhat poorer than North, as shown by the following table of average household disposable incomes for the financial year ending 2018:

	before housing costs	after housing costs
Kidlington North	£38,400	£35,800
Kidlington South	£37,300	£32,600

(From <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity>.)

The differences may not be all that great, though greater in the case of income after housing costs. Both figures are also well above the England average. Nevertheless they offer some small confirmation of the common view that the less well-off have suffered disproportionately from the pandemic.

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